

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 059063

63

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 MC-02

IGA-02 ACDA-05 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:DLCARDWELL:LAR

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE

AF/I:JANDEREGG

PM/SAS:SWINSHIP

AF:JBLAKE (IN DRAFT)

DOD:WMOORE

OMB:HSHAW (INFO)

NSC:RHARRISON (INFO)

T:WLEWIS

DOD/OASD/ISA:JREED S/S:CABORG

----- 080186

O R 110040Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

S E C R E T STATE 059063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, MILL, PFOR, GB, AO

SUBJECT:US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON

REF: A) LIBREVILLE 364; B) LIBREVILLE 377

1. AS REQUESTED REFTELS, FOLLOWING SHOULD BE USED AS  
RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT BONGO'S QUERIES REGARDING U.S.  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 059063

A. AS RECOMMENDED BY MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, USG GIVING

SYMPATHETIC AND PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO GABON UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) PROGRAM. HOWEVER, GABON'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE NECESSARILY MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF TOTAL U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO AFRICAN NATIONS POTENTIALLY THREATENED AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA.

B. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO FACILITATE CASH PURCHASES THROUGH FMS OR COMMERCIAL CHANNELS FOR EQUIPMENT AND/OR TRAINING AT ANY TIME GOG WISHES TO SPEND ITS OWN FUNDS.

C. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO GOG'S CONCERN OVER ITS SECURITY AND THE THREAT OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION. AT THE SAME TIME,

WE WOULD APPRECIATE GOG'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WHICH PREVENT US FROM RESPONDING AS DEFINITELY AND PROMPTLY AS WE WOULD LIKE.

2. FYI ONLY: U.S. DESIRES TO BE FORTHCOMING TO RESPONSE TO GABONESE REQUEST AND IS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO DEVISE A PROGRAM FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. WE ARE PLANNING TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS ABOUT REPROGRAMMING FY 76 FUNDS TO AROUND 2 MILLION DOLLARS IN USG GUARANTEED FMS CREDITS FOR GABON. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD PLAN TO SUBMIT REQUESTS TO CONGRESS IN FUTURE FISCAL YEARS, BUT NO COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME. PROPOSALS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN FY 77 TO ANGOLA'S NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING GABON, WILL BE GROUPED INTO A COMPLETE PACKAGE FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, UNTIL THIS COURSE OF ACTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY ALL CONCERNED, WE CANNOT INFORM GOG MORE SPECIFICALLY OF OUR INTENTIONS. IN CASE OF SPECIAL VIP VEHICLES FOR PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, WHICH FALL OUTSIDE SCOPE OF AUTHORIZED MILITARY PROGRAMS, WE HAVE FOUND NO WAY TO FUND THEM BUT WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK AT PROBLEM. END FYI.

3. MESSAGE ORIGINALLY SENT MARCH 5, BUT DELAYED EN ROUTE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cahillha  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE059063  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DLCARDWELL:LAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760091-0516  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760370/aaaacjyw.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LIBREVILLE 364, 76 LIBREVILLE 377  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cahillha  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by cahillha>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON  
**TAGS:** MASS, MILI, PFOR, GB, AO, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)  
**To:** LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006